

NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



**North Dakota
Agricultural
Statistics Service**

Cooperating With:
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,
FARM SERVICE AGENCY,
ND AG WEATHER NETWORK (NDAWN) and
UND AEROSPACE REGIONAL WEATHER
INFORMATION CENTER

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For Month Ending: January 4, 2004
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General: Mild temperatures and above average snowfall provided adequate crop protection, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Above normal temperatures in the west and south central regions of the state provided more days of open grazing. Reporters noted grain movement has been hampered by railcar shortages. Some insect infestations and heating of stored grain were reported.

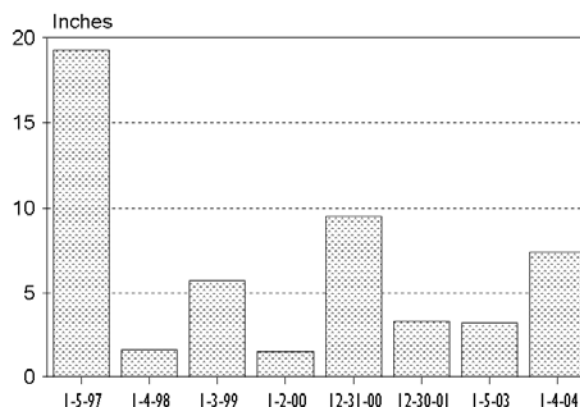
Statewide average snow cover was 7.4 inches on January 4. This compares to 3.2 inches last year. The north central district reported the most snow cover with an average of 14.8 inches followed by 12.8 inches in the northwest district. The south central and southeast districts reported the least snow cover with 4.3 and 2.3 inches, respectively.

County and secondary roads were rated 83 percent open, 11 difficult and 6 closed to travel. Road conditions were 58 percent dry, 16 icy, 25 drifted and 1 muddy. Reported conditions were the worst in the north central district with 60 percent drifted and 20 percent closed.

Crops: As of January 5, snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 14 percent poor, 67 adequate and 19 excellent.

Livestock: Statewide, cattle conditions were rated 3 percent poor, 21 fair, 66 good and 10 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 16 fair, 71 good and 11 excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 7 short, 85 adequate and 7 surplus.

**Average Snow Depth by Date
North Dakota**



~ Compiled and Published by ~

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Weather: The last month of 2003 had above average temperatures and precipitation. In early December, monthly high temperatures were set with Beach reporting 51 degrees and the rest of the stations from the southwest reporting temperatures in the high 40s. While the overall trend was warmer than average temperatures, there still were blasts of cold arctic air with Cavalier reporting a monthly low temperature of -22 degrees and Cando reporting -20 degrees. Above average snowfall was recorded for December with most zones experiencing at least one significant snowfall event over the month.

Outlook, January: While we have started the month with a snowstorm for most of the northern zones and all zones recording frigid temperatures, the outlook for January is for above normal temperatures and average precipitation. Expect highs to average around the upper teens and low 20s with average lows to hover around the single digits. Average precipitation for North Dakota during January is typically about 0.50 of an inch of water which roughly equates to about 5.00 inches of snow.

TEMPERATURE, December 1-31, 2003

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm
(Degrees F)				
NORTHWEST	40	-9	15	3
Bowbells	NA	NA	NA	NA
Williston	40	-6	17	3
Mohall	41	-12	15	2
Minot	39	-9	15	3
NORTH CENTRAL	36	-14	11	2
Baker	37	-8	14	4
Bottineau	36	-19	8	0
Towner	NA	NA	NA	NA
NORTHEAST	42	-18	12	2
Cando	40	-20	10	-4
Cavalier	46	-22	12	1
Forest River	42	-15	14	4
Grand Forks	42	-15	14	4
Langdon	38	-18	10	1
St. Thomas	43	-16	13	3
WEST CENTRAL	44	-8	18	3
Hazen	44	-10	17	3
Turtle Lake	41	-7	17	4
Watford City	47	-8	20	3
CENTRAL	43	-11	16	4
Carrington	42	-12	15	4
Harvey	40	-11	14	2
Jamestown	43	-15	14	1
Robinson	43	-7	18	7
Streeter	46	-12	17	4
EAST CENTRAL	40	-16	12	0
Dazey	39	-18	10	-1
Fargo	40	-14	13	1
Hillsboro	40	-17	12	0
SOUTHWEST	48	-2	23	6
Beach	51	-1	25	9
Bowman	49	1	25	7
Dickinson	48	-6	21	4
Hettinger	45	-2	22	4
SOUTH CENTRAL	45	-6	20	5
Bismarck	46	-7	19	5
Linton	45	-4	20	5
SOUTHEAST	43	-12	15	3
Edgeley	45	-9	18	6
Oakes	44	-14	15	1
Wyndmere	40	-12	14	1

1/ Normal is the 1961-90 average. NA=Not Available. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.